

REMARKS

The Claims were 1-16. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 13, 15 and 16 have been amended. Claims 2-4 and 10-12 have been canceled. Thus, Claims 1, 5-9 and 13-16 are pending in this case all to more clearly and distinctly claim Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully request entry of the amendments as they place the application in condition for allowance or in better condition for possible appeal.

Claim 1 has been currently amended include a process for preparing a micro-array for analysis of DNA which comprises the steps of (1) spotting onto a solid carrier in a predetermined area thereof in which a number of vinylsulfonyl groups are fixed an aqueous solution which contains a thickening agent comprising a water-soluble polymer and which has a viscosity of 2 to 50 mPa · s and probe molecules having an amino group and the probe molecules being selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid fragments, oligonucleotides and peptide nucleic acids; (2) spotting onto the solid carrier in an area other than the area in which the aqueous solution was spotted and in which vinylsulfonyl groups are fixed an aqueous solution which contains a thickening agent comprising a water-soluble polymer and which has a viscosity of 2 to 50 mPa · s and probe molecules having an amino group and the probe molecules being selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid fragments, oligonucleotides and peptide nucleic acids; (3) incubating the solid carrier having the spotted aqueous solutions on the surface thereby causing reaction for producing the covalent bondings between the vinylsulfonyl groups and the amino groups; and (4) washing the surface of the solid carrier with an aqueous medium to remove all of the thickening agent from the surface of the solid carrier, thereby preparing the micro-array. Support for currently amended Claim 1 may be found, for example, in the specification on page


7, lines 18-36 and page 26, lines 1-2. Claim 5 has been amended to depend on claim 1. Claims 7 and 15 have been amended to state that each of the aqueous solutions has a viscosity identical to each other. Claim 9 has been currently amended include a process for preparing a micro-array for analysis of DNA which comprises the steps of: (1) spotting onto a solid carrier in a predetermined area thereof in which a number of amino groups are fixed an aqueous solution which contains a thickening agent comprising a water-soluble polymer and which has a viscosity of 2 to 50 mPa · s and probe molecules having a phosphoric acid group and the probe molecules being selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid fragments, oligonucleotides and peptide nucleic acids; (2) spotting onto the solid carrier in an area other than the area in which the aqueous solution was spotted and in which amino groups are fixed an aqueous solution which contains a thickening agent comprising a water-soluble polymer and which has a viscosity of 2 to 50 mPa · s and probe molecules having a phosphoric acid group and the probe molecules being selected from the group consisting of nucleic acid fragments, oligonucleotides and peptide nucleic acids; (3) incubating the solid carrier having the spotted aqueous solutions on the surface thereby causing reaction for producing electrostatic bondings between the amino groups and the phosphoric acid groups; and (4) washing the surface of the solid carrier with an aqueous medium to remove all of the thickening agent from the surface of the solid carrier, thereby preparing the micro-array. Support for currently amended Claim 9 may be found, for example, in the specification on page 11, lines 11-19 and page 12, lines 19-32. Claim 13 has been amended to depend on claim 9. Claim 16 has been amended to depend on claim 9. Support for these amendments may be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in form for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below should there be any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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